

# UNCLASSIFIED 4/7/82 Department of State

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-00

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INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSC-01 NSAE-00 SY-06 HA-02 L-03 PM-09 PA-02  
MCT-02 USIE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 /071 W

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R 071425Z APR 83  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6882

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 02163

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, AR  
SUBJECT: ACCOUNTING FOR THE DISAPPEARED

REF: BUENOS AIRES 1612; PARA 5.A.

1. BUENOS AIRES DAILY "LA NACION" REPORTS ON APRIL 5 THAT THE GOVERNMENT NOW PLANS TO RELEASE DOCUMENTS -- A KIND OF "WHITE BOOK" -- REGARDING THE STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISM AND THE FATE OF THE DISAPPEARED BETWEEN APRIL 20 AND 22, 1983, RATHER THAN IN EARLY APRIL AS INITIALLY PLANNED (SEE REFTEL). ACCORDING TO SOURCES CITED BY "LA NACION", THE RELEASE WOULD BE TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE PLENARY OF THE ARGENTINE BISHOP'S CONFERENCE AND THEREBY BE TOUTED AS AN EARNEST OF THE GOA'S GOOD WILL TO COOPERATE WITH THE CHURCH'S CALL FOR "NATIONAL RECONCILIATION".

2. REPORTEDLY, THE DOCUMENTS WILL DESCRIBE HOW THE ARMED FORCES WERE INSTRUCTED VIA SECRET LEGISLATION APPROVED IN 1975 BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE TIME -- ISABEL PERON AND ITALO LINDA AS PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT WHEN MRS. PERON WAS ABSENT DUE TO ILLNESS -- TO ELIMINATE TERRORISTS AND SUBVERSIVES. (WE ARE TOLD BY OTHER SOURCES THAT THE OPERATIVE TERM IN THE ORDERS WERE TO "ANNIHILATE" THE GUERRILLAS.) THE "WHITE BOOK" WILL CHARACTERIZE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ARMED FORCES IN THE REPRESSION AS "ACTS PERFORMED IN THE LINE OF DUTY" ("ACTOS DE SERVICIO") AND HENCE UNDER THE EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION OF MILITARY COURTS, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES.

3. WITH RESPECT TO ACCOUNTING FOR THE DISAPPEARED, THE SOURCES TOLD "LA NACION" THAT THE MILITARY PLAN TO STATE OFFICIALLY THAT MANY OF THE PERSONS, WHOSE DISAPPEARANCE HAD BEEN DENOUNCED BY FAMILY MEMBERS AND WHO ARE NOT ABROAD, ARE DEAD. HOWEVER, THERE REPORTEDLY WILL BE NO ATTEMPT IN THIS DOCUMENT TO DISCUSS THE FATE OF INDIVIDUALS.

4. IN A SEPARATE BUT RELATED DEVELOPMENT, BISHOP ANTONI QUARRACINO, PRESIDENT OF THE LATIN AMERICAN BISHOPS CONFERENCE (BUENOS AIRES 1964), REFERRED ON APRIL 3 TO STATEMENTS BY SEVERAL ARGENTINE POLITICIANS WHO HAVE SUGGESTED THAT RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS RELATED TO DISAPPEARANCES DURING THE REPRESSION OF TERRORISM SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE COURTS. THE THOUGHTFUL AND OUTSPOKEN BISHOP REPORTEDLY SAID THAT LEAVING THIS PROBLEM EXCLUSIVELY TO THE COURTS WOULD "PRODUCE A POISONING OF HUMAN RELATIONS IN THE COUNTRY WITH HATE, VENGEANCE AND INJUSTICE NOW AND IN THE FUTURE." HE ADDED THAT THE ISSUE OF THE DISAPPEARED IS BEING USED FOR POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL PURPOSES AND CONDEMNED THIS AS A SACRILEGE. HE NOTED THAT HE DOES NOT OPPOSE JUDICIAL ACTION WHEN IT IS APPROPRIATE BUT THEN ASKED HIS BUENOS-AIRES DAILY "CLARIN" INTERVIEWER RHETORICALLY (AS IF TO PROVE HIS POINT

ABOUT THE FUTILITY AND DANGERS OF COURT ACTION), WHETHER THE COURTS "SHOULD BEGIN WITH EVENTS ONLY IN 1976 (YEAR OF THE COUP), OR 1973?" (FIRST YEAR OF PERONIST GOVERNMENT). QUARRACINO ADVOCATES RECOGNITION BY ARGENTINES THAT "WE ARE ALL IN SOME MEASURE RESPONSIBLE" AND A "LAW OF OBLIVION" OR "FORGETFULNESS" AS A HEALING AGENT. (HE REJECTS THE TERM "AMNESTY", BECAUSE OF WHAT HE CALLS ITS COLD, JURIDICAL FLAVOR.) SHLAUDERMAN

**AJ041**

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

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